

3237 steams into Wauchope

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27 May, 2010 08:15 AM

THE Lachlan Valley Railway's all too brief stopover in Wauchope on Friday of its beautiful loco 3237 has only created more interest in their planned two day visit in July.

The beautiful heritage steam train - the Beyer Peacock locomotive number 3237 - attracted plenty of interest from steam buffs but also the general public with the platform packed with on-lookers. And in a beautiful moment, the steam train and the XPT were captured beside each other in a great comparison of our nostalgic past and our streamlined present.

Engine 3237 entered service in 1893 and remained operational until being withdrawn from service in Dubbo in November 1971.

It was about this time that the Lachlan Valley Railway Society - a not for profit organisation based in Forbes - was born. This venture did not continue for very long but the operation was quickly moved to Cowra where most of the society's railway collection is now housed.

The LVR is a wholly volunteer-based organisation whose members have one thing in common - the preservation, restoration and operation of heritage items obtained from the former NSWGR. The 3237 is one of the four remaining members of the 191-strong 32 class steam locomotives introduced from 1892.

The 32-class was found all over NSW and were a common sight on the Illawarra line, between Sydney and Newcastle and in distant parts of the state such as the Dubbo and Armidale areas. Very few lines did not see a 32-class in operation.

Friday's visit was a fleeting one but the 3237 will return in the July school holiday.

Tickets are on sale at the Wauchope Railway Station. Shuttle tours will be available on July 5 and 6.